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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

In re Applicant: Glover, John N.)
Filed: May 27, 1999) Art Unit: 1723
Application No.: 09/320,950) Primary Examiner: David Sorkin
For: Filtering Medium and Method for) Attorney Docket No: 105218.04
Contacting Solids Containing Feeds for) (formerly 020781.04)
Chemical Reactors)

RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANT APPEAL BRIEF

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This paper is filed in response to the Notice of Non-Complaint Appeal Brief dated September 16, 2010 (“Notice”).

Enclosed herewith for filing in the above identified application is a revised Section V of the Appeal Brief, titled "Summary of the Claimed Subject Matter," that maps the independent claims to the specification by page and line number and to the drawings.

According to the Notice, only this revised Section V is required, and not the entire Appeal Brief.

I hereby authorize the Director to charge any necessary fees, or credit any overpayments, to Greenberg Traurig LLP Deposit Account No. 50-2638 (Order No. 105218.000004).

Respectfully submitted,



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V. SUMMARY OF THE CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 59, 67, 78, 86-89 and 94 are independent claims. Claims 61-66, 79 and 82-83 are ultimately dependent upon Claim 59. Claims 69-77, 80 and 84-85 are ultimately dependent upon Claim 67. Claim 81 is dependent upon Claim 78. Claims 90-93 are ultimately dependent upon Claim 89. Claim 95 is dependent upon Claim 94. A summary of the subject matter of the most relevant independent and dependent claims currently on appeal with key features underlined is presented as follows:

Claim 59

The first independent claim, Claim 59, features a method of fluid distribution in a chemical reactor 22 (p. 12, lines 9-10) comprising the steps of:

(A.) providing a layer 66, 68, 70 (FIG. 2) of a plurality of ceramic filter units 15 (p. 12, lines 9-10; FIGS. 4-16), at least some of the ceramic filter units 15 including a body having a substantially annular outer peripheral shape (p. 23, lines 18-21; FIGS 4-5), a central opening 108 extending through the body, and at least three elliptical openings 89 (p. 12, line 12) extending through the body and positioned between the central opening 108 and an outer periphery of the body so that a combination of the central opening 108 and the at least three elliptical openings 89 define a plurality of fluid flow passageways 87, 88, 89, 108 (p. 12, lines 13-15; FIGS. 4, 5, 14) extending through the at least some of the plurality of ceramic filter units 15;

(B.) contacting an organic-based feed stream 51 (FIG. 2) with the layer 66, 68, 70 of

the plurality of ceramic filter units 15 (p. 12, lines 14-15) ; and

(C.) subdividing the organic-based feed stream 51 into a plurality of smaller fluid streams by passing the organic-based feed stream 51 through the plurality of fluid flow passageways 87, 88, 89, 108 (FIGS. 4, 5, 14) prior to the organic-based feed stream 51 contacting a catalyst bed in the chemical reactor 22 (p. 12, lines 15-20) .

Claim 67

The second independent claim, Claim 67, features a method of fluid distribution in a chemical reactor 22 (p. 12, lines 9-10) comprising the steps of

(A.) providing a layer 66, 68, 70 (FIG. 2) of a plurality of ceramic filter units 15 (p. 12, lines 9-10; FIGS. 4-16), at least some of the ceramic filter units 15 including a body having a substantially polygonal outer peripheral shape (p. 23, lines 18-21; FIGS 4-5), a central opening 108 extending through the body, and at least three elliptical openings 89 (p. 12, line 12) extending through the body and positioned between the central opening 108 and an outer periphery of the body so that a combination of the central opening 108 and the at least three elliptical openings 89 define a plurality of fluid flow passageways 87, 88, 89, 108 (p. 12, lines 13-15; FIGS. 4, 5, 14) extending through the at least some of the plurality of ceramic filter units 15;

(B.) contacting an organic-based feed stream 51 (FIG. 2) with the layer 66, 68, 70 of the plurality of ceramic filter units 15 (p. 12, lines 14-15); and

(C.) subdividing the organic-based feed stream 51 into a plurality of smaller fluid streams by passing the organic-based feed stream 51 through at least some of the plurality of

fluid flow passageways 87, 88, 89, 108 (FIGS. 4, 5, 14) prior to the organic-based feed stream 51 contacting a catalyst bed in the chemical reactor 22 (p. 12, lines 15-20).

Claim 78

The third independent claim, claim 78, features a method of fluid distribution in a chemical reactor (p. 12, lines 9-10) comprising the steps of:

(A.) providing a layer 66, 68, 70 (FIG. 2) of a plurality of ceramic filter units 15 (p. 12, lines 9-10; FIGS. 4-16), at least some of the ceramic filter units 15 including a body, a central opening 108 extending through the body, and at least three elliptical openings 89 (p. 12, line 12) also extending through the body and positioned between the central opening 108 and an outer periphery of the body so that a combination of the central opening 108 and the at least three elliptical openings 89 define a plurality of fluid flow passageways 87, 88, 89, 108 (p. 12, lines 13-15; FIGS. 4, 5, 14) extending through each of the plurality of ceramic filter units 15;

(B.) contacting an organic-based feed stream 51 (FIG. 2) with the layer 66, 68, 70 of the plurality of ceramic filter units 15 (p. 12, lines 14-15); and

(C.) subdividing the organic-based feed stream 51 into a plurality of smaller fluid streams by passing the organic-based feed stream 51 through the at least some of the plurality of fluid flow passageways 87, 88, 89, 108 prior to the organic-based feed stream 51 contacting a catalyst bed in the chemical reactor 22 (p. 12, lines 15-20).

Claim 79

Dependent claim 79 features the method of claim 59, wherein the central opening is circular and the elliptical openings are non-circular.

Claim 80

Dependent claim 80 features the method of claim 67, wherein the central opening is circular and the elliptical openings are non-circular.

Claim 81

Dependent claim 81 features the method of claim 78, wherein the central opening is circular and the elliptical openings are non-circular.

Claim 82

Dependent claim 82 features the method of claim 64, wherein the fluted outer peripheral surface of the at least one of the plurality of ceramic filter units has sharp corners.

Claim 83

Dependent claim 83 features the method of claim 65, wherein at least one of the recessed notches of the outer periphery has sharp corners.

Claim 84

Dependent claim 84 features the method of claim 70, wherein at least one of the notches recessed from the outer periphery has sharp corners.

Claim 85

Dependent claim 85 features the method of claim 76, wherein at least one of the recessed notches on the outer periphery has sharp corners.

Claim 86

The fourth independent claim, Claim 86, features a method of fluid distribution in a chemical reactor 22 (p. 12, lines 9-10) comprising the steps of:

(A.) providing a layer 66, 68, 70 (FIG. 2) of a plurality of ceramic filter units 15 (p. 12, lines 9-10; FIGS. 4-16), at least some of the ceramic filter units 15 including a body having a substantially annular outer peripheral shape (p. 23, lines 18-21; FIGS 4-5), a central opening 108 extending through the body, and at least three trisoid-shaped openings 89 (p. 12, line 12) extending through the body and positioned between the central opening 108 and an outer periphery of the body so that a combination of the central opening 108 and the at least three trisoid-shaped openings 89 define a plurality of fluid flow passageways 87, 88, 89, 108 (p. 12, lines 13-15; FIGS. 4, 5, 14) extending through the at least some of the plurality of ceramic filter units 15;

(B.) contacting an organic-based feed stream 51 (FIG. 2) with the layer 66, 68, 70 of the plurality of ceramic filter units 15 (p. 12, lines 14-15); and

(C.) subdividing the organic-based feed stream 51 into a plurality of smaller fluid streams by passing the organic-based feed stream 51 through the plurality of fluid flow passageways 87, 88, 89, 108 (FIGS. 4, 5, 14) prior to the organic-based feed stream 51 contacting a catalyst bed in the chemical reactor 22 (p. 12, lines 15-20) .

Claim 87

The fifth independent claim, Claim 87, features a method of fluid distribution in a chemical reactor 22 (p. 12, lines 9-10) comprising the steps of

(A.) providing a layer 66, 68, 70 (FIG. 2) of a plurality of ceramic filter units 15 (p. 12, lines 9-10; FIGS. 4-16), at least some of the ceramic filter units 15 including a body having a substantially polygonal outer peripheral shape (p. 23, lines 18-21; FIGS 4-5), a central opening 108 extending through the body, and at least three trisoid-shaped openings 89 (p. 12, line 12) extending through the body and positioned between the central opening 108 and an outer periphery of the body so that a combination of the central opening 108 and the at least three trisoid-shaped openings 89 define a plurality of fluid flow passageways 87, 88, 89, 108 (p. 12, lines 13-15; FIGS. 4, 5, 14) extending through the at least some of the plurality of ceramic filter units 15;

(B.) contacting an organic-based feed stream 51 (FIG. 2) with the layer 66, 68, 70 of the plurality of ceramic filter units 15 (p. 12, lines 14-15); and

(C.) subdividing the organic-based feed stream 51 into a plurality of smaller fluid streams by passing the organic-based feed stream 51 through at least some of the plurality of fluid flow passageways 87, 88, 89, 108 (FIGS. 4, 5, 14) prior to the organic-based feed stream 51 contacting a catalyst bed in the chemical reactor 22 (p. 12, lines 15-20).

Claim 88

The sixth independent claim, claim 88, features a method of fluid distribution in a chemical reactor (p. 12, lines 9-10) comprising the steps of:

(A.) providing a layer 66, 68, 70 (FIG. 2) of a plurality of ceramic filter units 15 (p. 12, lines 9-10; FIGS. 4-16), at least some of the ceramic filter units 15 including a body, a central opening 108 extending through the body, and at least three trisoid-shaped openings 89 (p. 12, line 12) also extending through the body and positioned between the central opening 108 and an outer periphery of the body so that a combination of the central opening 108 and the at least three trisoid-shaped openings 89 define a plurality of fluid flow passageways 87, 88, 89, 108 (p. 12, lines 13-15; FIGS. 4, 5, 14) extending through each of the plurality of ceramic filter units 15;

(B.) contacting an organic-based feed stream 51 (FIG. 2) with the layer 66, 68, 70 of the plurality of ceramic filter units 15 (p. 12, lines 14-15); and

(C.) subdividing the organic-based feed stream 51 into a plurality of smaller fluid streams by passing the organic-based feed stream 51 through the at least some of the plurality of fluid flow passageways 87, 88, 89, 108 prior to the organic-based feed stream 51 contacting a catalyst bed in the chemical reactor 22 (p. 12, lines 15-20) .

Claim 89

The seventh independent claim, claim 89, features a method of fluid distribution in a chemical reactor (p. 12, lines 9-10) comprising the steps of:

(A.) providing a layer 66, 68, 70 (FIG. 2) of a plurality of ceramic filter units 15 (p. 12, lines 9-10, FIGS. 4-16), at least some of the ceramic filter units 15 including a body and at least three trisoid-shaped openings 89 (p. 12, line 12) extending through the body and positioned between a medial portion of the unit and an outer periphery of the body so that the

at least three trisoid-shaped openings 89 define a plurality of fluid flow passageways 87, 88, 89, 108 (FIGS. 4, 5, 14) extending through each of the plurality of ceramic filter units 15;

(B.) contacting an organic-based feed stream 51 (FIG. 2) with the layer 66, 68, 70 of the plurality of ceramic filter units 15 (p. 12, lines 14-15); and

(C.) subdividing the organic-based feed stream 51 into a plurality of smaller fluid streams by passing the organic-based feed stream 51 through the at least some of the plurality of fluid flow passageways 87, 88, 89, 108 prior to the organic-based feed stream 51 contacting a catalyst bed in the chemical reactor 22 (p. 12, lines 15-20) .

Claim 94

The eighth independent claim, claim 94, features a method of fluid distribution in a chemical reactor (p. 12, lines 9-10) comprising the steps of:

(A.) providing a layer 66, 68, 70 (FIG. 2) of a plurality of ceramic filter units 15 (p. 12, lines 9-10, FIGS. 4-16), at least some of the ceramic filter units 15 including a body having a circular outer peripheral shape (p. 23, lines 18-21, FIGS 4-5) and at least three elliptical openings 89 (p. 12, line 12) extending through the body and positioned between a medial portion of the unit and an outer periphery of the unit so that the at least three elliptical openings 89 define a plurality of fluid flow passageways 87, 88, 89, 108 (p. 12, lines 12-14, FIGS. 4, 5, 14) extending through each of the plurality of ceramic filter units 15;

(B.) contacting an organic-based feed stream 51 (FIG. 2) with the layer 66, 68, 70 of the plurality of ceramic filter units 15 (p. 12, lines 14-15); and

(C.) subdividing the organic-based feed stream 51 into a plurality of smaller fluid streams by passing the organic-based feed stream 51 through the at least some of the plurality of fluid flow passageways 87, 88, 89, 108 prior to the organic-based feed stream 51 contacting a catalyst bed in the chemical reactor 22 (p. 12, lines 15-20).

Claim 95

Dependent claim 95 features the method of claim 94, wherein body includes six elliptical openings.